

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of trimming a balloon of a balloon catheter, the method comprising:

introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;

forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape to form the balloon;

removing the balloon from the mold; and

following folding the balloon after removing the balloon from the mold,

(i) creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping a member around the balloon such that spaced-apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon compress the balloon leaving uncompressed portions of the balloon between the spaced apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon to form the protrusions on the balloon;

(ii) leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for a predetermined period of time;

(iii) removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time; and

(iv) positioning a stent defining a plurality of apertures around the balloon such that the protrusions extend through the plurality of apertures defined by the stent.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising heating the balloon during at least one of the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for the predetermined period of time.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the member wrapped around the balloon is constructed of one of polytetrafluorethylene or polyurethane.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[4]]~~3, further comprising attaching the folded balloon to a catheter tubing~~the following steps prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon:~~

~~introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape; and
taking the balloon out of the mold.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[5]]~~3, further comprising attaching the balloon to a catheter tubing.

7-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the member wrapped around the balloon is constructed of one of polytetrafluorethylene or polyurethane and is either round shaped or flat shaped.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[10]]~~9, further comprising attaching the folded balloon to a catheter tubing~~the following steps prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon:~~

~~introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape; and
taking the balloon out of the mold.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[11]]~~9, further comprising attaching the balloon to a catheter tubing.

13-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising attaching the folded balloon to a catheter tubing, ~~the following steps prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon:~~

~~introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming the tube of balloon material into a balloon shape; and
taking the balloon out of the mold.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]]2, further comprising attaching the balloon to a catheter tubing.

17-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the member comprises a flat band.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the member comprises a thread.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of trimming a balloon of a balloon catheter, the method comprising:

introducing a tube of balloon material into a balloon forming mold;
forming balloon material into a balloon shape to form the balloon;
removing the balloon from the mold;
following folding the balloon after removing the balloon from the mold,

(i) creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping a member around the balloon such that spaced-apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon compress the balloon leaving uncompressed portions of the balloon between the spaced apart loops of the member wrapped around the balloon to form the protrusions on the balloon;

(ii) leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for a predetermined period of time; and

(iii) removing the member from the balloon after the predetermined period of time;

attaching the balloon to a balloon catheter; and

positioning a stent defining a plurality of apertures around the balloon such that the protrusions extend through the plurality of apertures defined by the stent.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising heating the balloon during at least one of the creating protrusions on the balloon by wrapping the member around the balloon and the leaving the member wrapped around the balloon for the predetermined period of time.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, ~~further comprising~~ wherein folding the balloon prior to the creating protrusions on the balloon includes ~~by wrapping~~ the member around the balloon

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the member comprises a flat band.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the member comprises a thread.

28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein attaching the balloon to a balloon catheter comprises attaching a folded balloon to a catheter tubing of the balloon catheter.